

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 1998

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

Former attorneys general Bell, Meese, Thornburgh, and Barr recently issued a statement raising concerns about the attacks on Independent Counsel Starr. We hope you agree with their statement that Independent Counsel Starr "should be allowed to carry out his ... duties without harassment by government officials and members of the bar." They explained their concern as follows:

As former attorneys general, we are concerned that the severity of the attacks on Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr and his office by high level government officials and attorneys representing their particular interests, among others, appear to have the improper purpose of influencing and impeding an ongoing criminal investigation and intimidating possible jurors, witnesses and even investigators. We believe it is significant that Mr. Starr's investigative mandate has been sanctioned by the Attorney General of the United States and the Special Division of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

They also commented on Mr. Starr's integrity, stating:

As former attorneys general, we know Mr. Starr to be an individual of the highest personal and professional integrity. As a judge on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and Solicitor General of the United States, he exhibited exemplary judgment and commitment to the highest ethical standards and the rule of law.

We have enclosed their full statement for your review and urge you to publicly speak out against such behavior. We urge you to clearly, and unequivocally state that it is improper for federal government officials to publicly attack a federal prosecutor or other law enforcement official.


Sincerely,


Rep. Dan Burton
Rep. Stephen Horn


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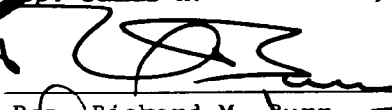
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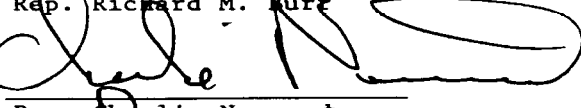

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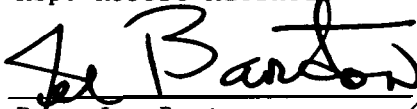

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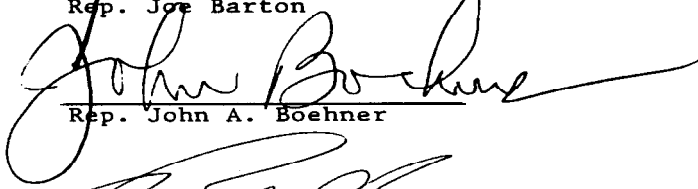

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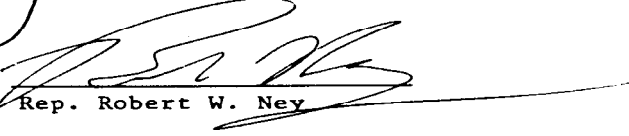

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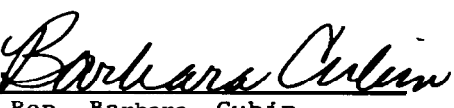

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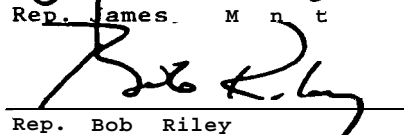

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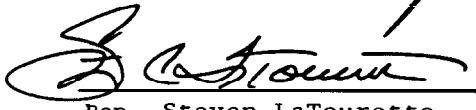

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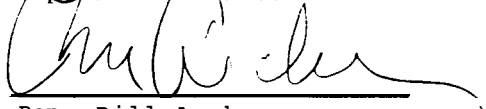

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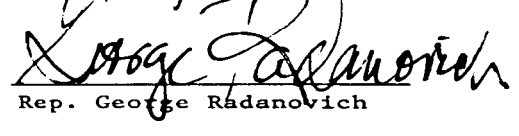

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